

1 Amendments to the claims:

2 Claim 1 (currently amended): In a balloon expandable stent, wherein said stent has a
3 plurality of interconnected members, and wherein said interconnected members form flexion
4 points where two or more of said members interconnect, whereby each of said members has
5 a cross-sectional width and a thickness and said members flex relative to each other as said
6 stent expands, the improvement comprising:

7 an array of relief cuts formed in some of said interconnected members at or near
8 said flexion points, said relief cuts being round or arcuate holes extending completely through
9 said members, whereby said members flex more easily as said stent expands than without
10 said relief cuts, and wherein said interconnected members of said stent have cross sections
11 wherein the width is between 1.5 and 5 times as great as said thickness.

12
13 Claim 2 (currently amended): In a balloon expandable stent having a plurality of cells
14 and said stent is movable between a retracted and an expanded position, wherein said cells
15 are formed by a plurality of flexible, interconnected members, wherein said members have a
16 thickness and a cross-sectional width and form flexion points where two or more of said
17 members interconnect, said members flexing relative to each other as said stent expands, the
18 improvement comprising:

19 an array of relief cuts formed in some of said members at or near said flexion
20 points, said relief cuts being round or arcuate holes extending completely through said
21 members to cause said members to flex more easily than without said relief cuts being formed
22 therein and wherein said interconnected members have cross sections wherein the width is
23 between 1.5 and 5 times as great as the thickness.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): In a balloon expandable stent, wherein said stent has a
2 plurality of interconnected members, and wherein said interconnected members form flexion
3 points where two or more of said members interconnect, whereby each of said members has
4 a cross-sectional width and a thickness and said members flex relative to each other as said
5 stent expands, the improvement comprising:

6 an array of relief cuts formed in some of said interconnected members at or near
7 said flexion points, said relief cuts being round or arcuate holes extending completely through
8 said members, whereby said members flex more easily as said stent expands than without
9 said relief cuts, and wherein said stent has distal and proximal ends and a central section, and
10 wherein said relief cuts are formed only in said distal and proximal ends.